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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/620,663	07/16/2003	Jean D. Van Epps JR.	D/A2435	9567

25944 7590 05/15/2007
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. BOX 19928
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER

KORNAKOV, MIKHAIL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1746

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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05/15/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/620,663

Applicant(s)

VAN EPPS ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Kornakov

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 February 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 02/15/2007 has been entered.
2. Claim 1 is amended. Claims 1-11 are pending and examined on the merits.
3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
4. Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) or under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bush et al (U.S. 6,461,442).

Bush teaches a process for removing a strip of coating material from a hollow imaging drum with the steps, identical to those instantly claimed. Namely, the process of Bush includes providing a hollow imaging drum, identical to those instantly claimed; simultaneously contacting a coating material on both inside and outside surfaces at a first end of the drum with one piece resilient solvent resistant foam material 12 having a vertical circular slit; flowing a solvent for the coating material to the foam; producing relative movement between the drum and the foam; flowing the solvent with removed coating material away from the drum. As specifically indicated by Bush, the foam material comprises the channels and open cells for escaping the solvent away from the

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drum. The foam also comprises the closed cells. The preferred diameter of the cell is between about 1 mm and about 3 mm. Typically the width of the cleaned strip at bottom edges of the drum extends from about 0.5 mm to about 15 mm, preferably from about 3.5 mm to about 9 mm (Fig. 1, 3, 5; paragraph, bridging col.5 and 6; col.6, lines 23-29, 38-48; paragraph, bridging col.7 and 8; col.9, lines 54-61; paragraph bridging col.9 and 10; col.10, lines 51-61; col. 11, lines 40-48). Therefore, all the processing steps as instantly claimed are met by Bush.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 02/15/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants argue that Bush fails to disclose or suggest a process that includes at least flowing the solvent away from a drum to carry away coating material removed from the inside surface and the outside surface of the first end of the drum, wherein an inner sponge section of a sponge material has formed internal channels for flowing the solvent away from the drum and an outer sponge section of said sponge material has formed internal channels for flowing the solvent away from the drum, as recited in independent claim 1. This is not found persuasive since Bush specifically indicates that the foam material (which includes inner section of the foam material and outer section of the foam material, see Fig. 5, M.K.) includes open cells for uniform removal of solvent and dissolved coating material (paragraph, bridging col.9 and 10 of Bush).

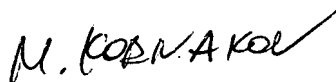
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Applicants also argue that Bush fails to disclose on which sections of the foam material to form the possible internal channels. This is not found persuasive since the entire foam material of Bush, including inner and outer sections, comprises open cells. As to the limitation, reciting "formed internal channel", this limitation reads on open cells of Bush, which are also formed within the foam material.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Kornakov whose telephone number is (571) 272-1303. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571) 272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Kornakov", with a checkmark-like flourish at the end.

Michael Kornakov

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Primary Examiner
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05/11/2007